

Newsletter



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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE NEWS

To many members, the work of the National Executive is little known or appreciated. Few Executive meetings are reported in the newsletter, so interested members rely on word of mouth of the minutes which are circulated to District Councils. I am unhappy about this state of affairs, as it distances Executive from the members it is there to serve. It also prevents the general membership from gaining a true impression of what the Institute is and where it is going. I aim to remedy this by writing a regular column in the newsletter on things happening at National level.

First, a few points:

- National Executive is made up of 12 elected members plus 3 ex-officio members. It meets 3 times a year in January, May and September. Much business is done by phone and letter between these times. Meetings are either held in Wellington or at Lincoln University. All members are welcome to attend.

The last meeting was held at Head Office at Lincoln University, on Thursday 6 September. Ten members including the President, Ralph Ballinger were present. The main outcomes of the meeting were as follows:-

1. Purchase of additional computer equipment for the examinations operation.
2. Change of editor for "Horticulture in New Zealand". Ron Davison, ex DSIR Mt Albert, has taken over from Mike Oates.
3. The examinations operation will be funded by the Ministry of Education until the end of 1991. Funding after that will depend on the outcome of negotiations between the RNZIH and the newly established New Zealand Qualifications Authority.
4. The role of the RNZIH in show judging was discussed. In the past, we have certified general show judges and produced publications such as "Flowers for Shows". Graeme Mander and John Taylor are reviewing our role.

5. Support was given for the establishment of a National Plant Collections Scheme (see article in this issue). Such a scheme is to be established under the auspices of the Institute.

6. The concept of a national ethnobotanical garden was supported. There are moves to establish a garden in Auckland as a joint venture between Pu Hau Rangī, a multi-tribal trust, and DSIR (see June newsletter).

7. Negotiations to take place between National Executive and the New Zealand Arborists Association regarding links between the two organisations. It is envisaged that the members of the Arborists Association would also be members of the RNZIH.

8. Many District Councils are affected by low membership and lack of support. Discussions took place as to how this could be overcome. Mike Oates and David Shilitto to prepare a report.

(Cont. on page 2)

LODER CUP

Dr Brian Molloy, a scientist at the Botany Institute, DSIR Land Resources, is the 1990 recipient of the Loder Cup. Dr Molloy received the Cup at the Plant Conservation Symposium held in Tauranga in August.

The Institute was represented by Mike Oates, Chairman of the National Executive, who gave a talk on the history of the Cup from the first award in 1929 to the present day. The cup was then presented to Dr Molloy by the Director-General of conservation, Mr Bill Mansfield.

Dr Molloy has made a tremendous contribution to our understanding of the native flora and the importance of conserving what is left. He has worked on the Protected Natural Areas and the Man in the Biosphere programmes. He has also surveyed, advised on and submitted reserve proposals, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants, and acted on special committees such as coastal dunes, tussock grasslands and wetlands. Congratulations to Dr Molloy.



National Executive News (cont.)

9. Several constitutional amendments were approved and will be put to the AGM in Auckland next May. They include:

(i) Changing the membership categories to associate membership is available to all those over 60 years who have been RNZIH members for 5 years. Student membership is widened to include all students doing horticulture courses at polytechnic and university.

(ii) The name District Councils be changed to Branches.

(iii) Allowing Executive to co-opt a person, if an Executive member leaves part-way through their term.

10. All original minute books from 1926 onwards are still at Head Office. David Shilitto to investigate the possibility of moving them to Lincoln University Library. They would still be available for use by Institute members.

11. The Loder Cup competition needs upgrading. National Executive to commence discussions with Department of Conservation as to how best this can be done. Funding of the Loder Cup Committee needs resolving. RNZIH no longer gets a grant from Government for this.

12. RNZIH display needs upgrading. David Shilitto to work on this. This is not available for District Councils to borrow until this is completed.

13. The D.D. Baker Memorial Award will provide funding for RNZIH members involved in research study or other projects. Final details still to be worked out but it should be up and running in 1991.

14. Concern expressed over the lack of horticulturists featured in the first volume of the New Zealand Dictionary of Biography. Many played an important role in the introduction of plant material into New Zealand and the establishment of botanic gardens.

15. National Executive is concerned over the standard of plant naming in the trade. Approaches have been made to distributors of plant labels and to the New Zealand Nurserymen's Association to stress the importance of botanical accuracy and the problems associated with using common names.

Mike Oates - Chairman, National Executive

Hawkweeds a Problem

DSIR Grasslands are seeking comments on the proposal to introduce two fungi species to biologically control the spread of hawkweeds (*Hieracium*) in the South Island high country. Hawkweeds are a major economic problem to high country agriculture, equalling rabbits in their effect. The major problem species are the matt-forming species, in particular mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*) because it excludes other species and limits the available stock feed. King devil (*H. praealtum*) and field hawkweed (*H. caespitosum*) are weeds in reserves and national parks by excluding native species.

The most closely related economic agricultural and horticultural species are lettuce, chicory, endive, chrysanthemum, gerberin, and dahlia, and five native species.

While hawkweeds can be controlled by fertiliser and oversowing on the better soils, it is not possible on the large areas of poorer fertility soils which could not be economically developed.

The proposal for biological control is to introduce the rust fungi *Puccinia hieracii* var. *piloselloidarum*, which only occurs on the vegetatively spreading matt forming *Hieracium* species and is taxonomically distinct, and the powdery mildew *Erysiphe cichoracearum*. The rust would have its greatest effect towards the wetter areas of the NZ high country; the powdery mildew would be more effective in the more extensive drier areas of the inter-montane basins in the high country. The species have been tested on New Zealand material taken to Edinburgh, and shown to have significant effect in reducing growth rates of the *Hieracium* species concerned.

Whilst tests show that the rust is without effect on any closely related economic or other species, there is difficulty in the exact definition of the powdery mildew. By the usual definition the mildew has an unacceptably wide host range on a number of agricultural species. However it is probable that strains collected from hieracium would only re-infect

New Resource book free for schools

Botany Division, DSIR, is writing and publishing an educational book illustrating New Zealand's native flowering plants. As a contribution to the 1990 celebrations a copy of the book will be given to each high school library.

The emphasis of the book is on the identification of the main flowering-plant families found naturally in this country. Fifty-two families are extensively illustrated and their distinguishing botanical features described, including floral family characteristics. The key genera and overseas representatives of special interest are included. Botanical statistics for the family are given, including the number of species in the world, how many are native to New Zealand, and the number that are naturalised.

(From *Resource Research*, newsletter of the Resources Divisions of DSIR.)

FELLOWSHIP (FRIH)

Mr Denis Hughes was recently awarded Fellowship status of the RNZIH; his name should have been included in the list on page 3 of the June 1990 newsletter. Apologies.

hieracium. A strain of the powdery mildew species is already in New Zealand on chrysanthemum and dahlia, and is unlikely to be further infected by a strain more specific to hawkweeds.

DSIR is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment to be submitted to MAF and the Ministry for the Environment. Should the introduction be regarded as possible, there will be further public notification, and opportunity for submission.

BLANKET PROTECTION OF URBAN TREES

On the 3rd June 1990 the Auckland Tree Council organised a conference to produce a New Zealand Tree Manifesto which as a guideline would bring many important issues together; economic, ecological and technical.

One area that was covered during a workshop was the importance of protection for urban trees. After some discussion the final draft on this issue read as follows:-

"Local authorities should observe professional standards of arboricultural practice on all publicly owned trees and should adopt appropriate blanket protection including environmental impact requirement."

This use of blanket cover is now being used by the Auckland City Council and the Tauranga District Council. Before its amalgamation, blanket protection was also in use by the Borough of Mount Eden.

My feelings on the use of blanket protection are mainly negative, and this short article will outline some of the shortcomings of the scheme as I see them, based on my experiences as a practising arborist over a twenty year period.

What does blanket protection cover? The criteria vary, but generally will include protection against felling or pruning of any trees that are

- (i) native species
- (ii) above a pre-determined height (4m)
- (iii) above a pre-determined diameter at breast height.

I would like to outline various points to support my opinions.

1. For any tree to be deemed protection-worthy, it should be inspected for health and safety. This should be a requirement for all local authorities if they are to be good stewards of our urban treescape. Therefore, there must be qualified people capable of doing this.

2. As the arborists first priority, all trees within the town or city should be surveyed. The use of well-designed computer software can make this a cost-effective exercise. (Hamilton City Council is in the process of doing this for their street trees). Trees can then be prioritised and a programme of pruning, felling and replanting can be implemented. Blanket protection will not have this effect and too much time will be lost dealing with panic enquiries from the public.

3. There should be appropriate statutes and by-laws which could be used selectively by the city arborist, based on the findings of the tree survey. Perhaps changes in the Re-

source Management Law Reform Bill (should it ever happen), will be of assistance. In Britain, the fine for infringing a Tree Preservation Order (T.P.O.) can be up to £5000, and may be imposed by magistrates courts without lengthy litigation. T.P.O.'s are proposed by the arborist often with input from the public and then passed by the Planning Committee of the local authority.

4. Administration of a blanket protection is a major problem. In an area the size of Auckland it would require several full-time inspectors to handle the workload.

5. Policing the system would be almost impossible, certainly more difficult than T.P.O.'s. The recently established New Zealand Arboricultural Association will help by increasing the awareness of safe working practices and standards.

6. The finance to operate such a system would be high, would money be better spent on tree maintenance and tree planting?

7. Tree maintenance of protected trees. Who is liable for the costs incurred on these protected trees (particularly notable trees); should this be standard practice?

8. It has been estimated that 50% of urban trees have been incorrectly sited. The assumption from this is that they will have to be removed before they reach maturity. In this type of situation the system becomes confrontational and could lead to much ill-feeling. More importantly many people will feel threatened by such orders, and will cease to plant trees or will cut them down before they reach the minimum dimensions.

In conclusion, there are many limitations for blanket protection.

Alan Pitts had the answer when he was Parks Officer at Mount Eden B.C. Through the size of the borough, the support of the community and planning department, and the character of the man, he was able to withstand the social and political problems that beset the borough. The mere sound of a chainsaw anywhere in the borough would bring him running out even in the early hours of the morning.

That, though, was a very special type of blanket protection as I'm sure you would agree, being built up from public trust and concern. How many local authorities nowadays are in this enviable position where they can effectively monitor and maintain a comprehensive blanket protection plan? Very few, I suspect.

Martin C. Herbert

(ref. Wakeling, J. 1990, newsletter of N.Z. Arb. Assoc.)

Abutilons

A letter has been received from Mr L. Marshall, Superintendent Parks & Gardens at the Hamilton Botanic Gardens near the Grampians, in Victoria, Australia. The Hamilton Botanic Gardens are taking part in the O.P.C.A. by participating in the Abutilons collection. He would like to hear from anyone who specialises in growing Abutilons in New Zealand.

Contact:

Mr L. Marshall
Superintendent Parks & Gardens
City of Hamilton
Municipal Offices
PO Box 107
Hamilton 3300
Victoria
AUSTRALIA

THE NEW ZEALAND TREE MANIFESTO JUNE 3RD 1990

WHEREAS Conservation of the land, soil fertility and a healthy ecology should be recognised as paramount considerations in all tree programmes; AND WHEREAS the depletion of New Zealand's indigenous forests has been excessive and has not been replaced by regeneration or plantation forests; AND WHEREAS the domestic and international need for wood as the most environmentally benign and efficient source of material and energy is increasing and will continue to increase; AND WHEREAS the spiritual aesthetic and cultural values of the trees of Aotearoa call for acknowledgement in all policy farming; THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN that we the Tree Conference assembled at Auckland this third day of June 1990 do resolve and declare;

CONSERVATION HERITAGE

- (1) that all our remaining indigenous forests be preserved and protected, as the heritage of New Zealand's ancient diverse and unique environment and that increasing the stock of native forest is best done by protecting regenerating seed beds, as in fernland and scrubland;
- (2) that indigenous trees be given the maximum possible protection, nationally and locally, other than where planted and managed for harvesting purposes;
- (3) that the export of indigenous wood as sawn timber, saw log or chip, be discontinued;
- (4) that New Zealand's landscape diversity with potential for recreation and tourism should be recognised in our tree policies;
- (5) that in the interests of soil and land protection, replanting on East cape and other degraded and erodable areas must receive high priority in national funding and regional employment;

FORESTRY

- (6) that encouragement of the forest growing industry through research and planning, using all available fiscal means, be national policy;
- (7) that planting and maintenance of our plantation forest resource should receive high priority from the public sector;
- (8) that encouragement should be given to innovative indigenous and exotic forestry with species diversification;
- (9) that the utilisation of indigenous wood should be from trees specifically planted and cultivated, not from intrusion into public heritage forests;

(10) that potential exists for management of private indigenous forests subject to strict conservation criteria;

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

- (11) that the immense potential for employment in all aspects of forestry wood technology and marketing should be recognised and expressed in New Zealand's tree policies;
- (12) agro-forestry should be encouraged as a normal use of agricultural land with the benefit of present and on-going research;
- (13) that basic research and development in conservation and production forestry must be adequately funded;
- (14) that local processing, added value, and the stimulation of traditional crafts be encouraged in the utilisation of New Zealand forest resources;
- (15) that local government authorities should require professional standards of arboricultural practice with all publicly owned trees and should adopt appropriate blanket protection, including environmental impact requirements;
- (16) that special fiscal incentives and rating concessions be used to encourage protective covenanting of trees on private land;
- (17) that any title to land be held subject to an equity to sustain the environmental quality of that land;
- (18) that protection of forests from invasive animals, plants and pathogens calls for urgent eradication and control programmes;

EDUCATION

In recognition of the crucial participatory role of all New Zealanders, young and old, in implementing the foregoing objectives:

- (19) that an all-embracing campaign should be immediately and adequately funded to educate all New Zealanders in the importance of trees.

The Tree Conference was organised by the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Auckland. Speakers and attendees were widely representative, including foresters and scientists, environment and conservation activists, central and local government administrators and representatives from landscape, planning, legal professions and the forest industry.

Sir Victor Davies Award Presentation

The inaugural Sir Victor Davies Award was presented to Peter Heenan at a ceremony in Christchurch recently. The Award, in the form of a specially designed certificate was presented by Ralph Ballinger, President of the RNZIH. Peter also received the two volumes of "Eagle's Tree and Shrubs of New Zealand". Peter is a member of the Land Resources Division of DSIR, based at Lincoln in Canterbury. A citation, documenting Peter's considerable achievements appears in the winter issue of "Horticulture in New Zealand."



Ralph Ballinger presents the Sir Victor Davies Award to Peter Heenan

IT'S CALLED WHAT, NOW ???

For those of us who like to try and keep a working knowledge of the botanical names for our native flora, keeping up with the many name changes that have occurred over the last ten years or so can be a nightmare. I have heard the question "Its called what now ?" many times over the last few years as more and more of the recently published name changes come into common usage. It is a question that is usually stated with some horror at the realisation that ones knowledge of these botanical names has dated so soon.

Many of these name changes affect herbs, shrubs and trees often used for horticultural purposes. I wonder how many people out there for instance, have managed to keep track of what has happened to our native *Senecio*. Did you know that they are all either included in the genus *Brachyglottis*, *Dolichoglottis*, or in the case of *Senecio kirkii*, *Urostemon*?

The pretty alpine herb, the white flowered *Senecio lyalli* and *S. scorzoneroioides* are now in the genus *Dolichoglottis*. Not only have the genera been changing but species names within genera have also changed. For example the pretty shrub *Senecio bennettii* with its broad leaves, green above, white and hairy below is now included as *Brachyglottis buchananii*. Some name changes such as the separation of the visually very similar kanuka from manuka, (both previously *Leptospermum*; kanuka is now *Kunzea ericoides*) can be quite mind boggling to the average person but apparently understandable to at least some taxonomists.

These name changes also affect some of our smallest plants for example the very pretty yellow/black flowered *Cotula atrata* found growing naturally in the alpine screes and rocky areas of the mountains is now part of the genus *Leptinella*. At the other end of the scale

some of our largest conifers have also been jumping genera. Miro and matai are no longer in the genus *Podocarpus*, and are now included in the genus *Prumnopitys*. Similarly the genus *Dacrydium* previously used to describe bog pine, pink pine, yellow silver pine, rimu etc. now has three additional genera (*Halocarpus*, *Lagarostrobos*, and *Lepidothamnus*) to cover the species previously included within it.

Feeling confused, you're not alone!! The list goes on and on yet, however if you are keen to try and keep up with the new names or just want to know what the most correct name is for a plant in our indigenous flora then fortunately for us, all the name changes in our indigenous flora have been compiled and published by H.E. Connor and E. Edgar in Volume 25 of the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* (1987). It is also available as an off print through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

ROGER GIBSON

Christchurch

FROM THE BRANCHES...

Wellington

Mr Ron Flook, President of the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects, presented the Ian Galloway Memorial Lecture on March 20th of this year. Ron knew and worked with Ian Galloway for several years, and recognises him as an outstanding administrator and supporter of horticulture and landscape architecture in New Zealand. Ian has left many memorials to his work in Wellington and its surrounds.

Ron called his address, "The Detectable Web", and spoke on the map of human use that lies within Wellington. Over the years the city has been built and then pulled down, but we should not lose fragments of the past. They must be preserved and cared for.

Ian Galloway had a love for Wellington. Ron suggests Ian's strategy was to plant a tree in an unrepaired pothole, add a seat next year, and then a few shrubs. Once this island was established and used by the public, no one would dare

remove it. Grand schemes invite long delays, but the development of small pockets of green could eventually lead to the greening of a whole street - Lambton Quay is a good example.

Ron went on to discuss the present, and the future. Economic restraint means we should be rehabilitating our existing environment, not developing new projects. We must broaden our outlook and anticipate change.

People, trams, cars, bicycles, stalls and pavement cafes are in harmony with the buildings in Melbourne's full streets. This is the result of good planning and engineering and consideration of the needs of the people.

A well developed city has history and open space as part of the elements making up an interesting and healthy environment. These elements make up the detectable web. Landscape architects use them to achieve good design.

The "Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden" was launched on April 5. The formation of this Society is timely, with the Centenary of the Wellington Botanic Garden occurring in 1991.

A botanical ramble at Victoria Park was held with Bill Sykes, noted DSIR botanist, in early September.

On 29th September, a visit was made to the Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula where Hugh Wilson has a programme of protecting and restoring native vegetation and wildlife. The visit, which was held in conjunction with the NZ Institute of Parks and Recreation, and the Noxious Plant Officers Association, went ahead amidst intermittent snow showers - who said it was nearly summer?

Members can look forward to a chance to learn about the activities of the Christian Community at Cust On October 27th. The institute has been afforded the privilege of having a meal with members of the community.

I'd like to hear from all of the other branches of the RNZIH. Please send me any articles, and copies of your newsletters - The Editor, RNZIH Newsletter, PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

A National Plant Collections Scheme

In October 1989 the RNZIH organised a workshop on plant collections at the Waikato Polytechnic. As a result of the workshop, a steering committee was formed to work towards the establishment of a National Plant Collections Scheme. One of the main roles of this scheme will be to coordinate the establishment of a series of plant collections throughout New Zealand. These collections will ensure garden plants and rare and endangered New Zealand plants are not lost, but retained in cultivation as source material for future use. The scheme will be based on a successful scheme operated by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) in Great Britain and Ireland. This scheme currently has over 500 registered collections.

The steering committee have developed a strategy for the establishment of a New Zealand scheme. Here are the main features:-

* We've agreed on a broad mission statement and goals (Table 1). These set the boundaries of the Scheme. Realistically, we will only work on one or two of these in the short term.

* The first priority is to find out what we've already got. Until we do that we can't set priorities for establishing collections. This will mean working with organisations who have already carried out plant surveys such as the International Dendrology Society, Herb Federation and the New Zealand Tree Crops Association.

* The success of the scheme will be in its voluntary nature. It will not dictate what anyone can or cannot grow. However, if people wish to register a collection under the Scheme they will have to adhere to some simple conditions. The Scheme will compliment existing schemes, such as that run by the New Zealand Herb Federation.

* The Scheme will employ a national coordinator. One of their first tasks will be to organise a comprehensive survey of plant material currently available in New Zealand. They will also ensure the Scheme becomes a "grass roots" organisation. The support of home gardeners as well as professionals is crucial to the success of the Scheme.

* Funding is an important consideration and is being addressed. Money will be from two main sources: subscriptions and corporate sponsorship. We are currently offering Foundation Memberships to individuals and organisations for \$2,000. The Foundation Members will be publicly acknowledged as supporters of the Scheme. We are also working on a proposal to present to corporate bodies interested in an ongoing sponsorship which would include the salary of the national coordinator.

* The structure of the Scheme has yet to be finalised. Possibilities include registering it as a charitable trust or as an incorporated society. Until the Scheme is up and running the RNZIH will act as an advocate of the Scheme and hold any money in trust until it is formally established.

For further information on the National Plant Collections Scheme, or information on Foundation Memberships, contact Mike Oates, Chairman of National Executive, RNZIH, Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

TABLE 1: Mission Statement and Goals of the National Plant Collections Scheme

MISSION:

To participate in a global strategy for conserving plant genetic diversity by monitoring, preserving and enhancing the resource in New Zealand.

GOALS:

1. To establish which plants exist in New Zealand and to establish a common system of documentation and plant recording. The system will need the capacity to network with international systems.
2. To determine those collections which currently exist in New Zealand and when necessary, advise on appropriate action to encourage their preservation in co-operation with other bodies active in this field.
3. To provide authoritative advice as to the intrinsic value and importance of ensuring the preservation of both collections and individual plants.
4. To act as an information source regarding the location and availability of propagating material, reference works, nursery catalogues and other pertinent materials.
5. To facilitate the establishment of plant collections.
6. To encourage in all possible ways the education of, and participation in, plant conservation.
7. To facilitate and encourage the development and use of sampling, propagating and curatorial techniques which enhance plant genetic resources.
8. To liaise with international bodies who have aims and objectives sympathetic to those of the New Zealand Plant Collection Scheme.

NOTABLE TREES

Two trees (Tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*; Norfolk Island Pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*), registered recently under the Notable Trees Scheme, are growing in the grounds of the U.S.A. Embassy at Lower Hutt. They are a small part of a fine collection of old trees, mostly planted over one hundred years ago, under the zealous supervision of ALFRED LUDLAM (1810-1876). From the time that his two-storey home was built on this Hutt valley site, about eight years after he arrived at Port Nicholson in 1842, Ludlam devoted much of his time to the planting of (mostly) exotic trees on the eight acres he developed. When he amalgamated his original acres with those of his next-door neighbour, FRANCIS MOLESWORTH, Ludlam called the whole property "Newry". Dubbed "Father of the (Wellington) Botanic Garden", Ludlam was a foundation-nominated Governor of the New Zealand Institute; when he died his property became known as "McNab's Garden", after its new owner.

Subsequently, the land changed hands again and was renamed Bellevue Garden. Open to the public, it was a popular tea-garden for a number of years. The garden was offered to the nation and to the Hutt Council but the purchase lapsed for want of funds. The property was finally subdivided.

This article is based on details contained in the book "THE BOTANIC GARDEN, WELLINGTON: A NEW ZEALAND HISTORY, 1840-57" by Wincome Shepherd and Walter Cook, 1988.

Wilf Watson,
TREE REGISTRAR.

Conservation Reserve a Success in Canterbury

HINEWAI - in Maori the name means "mist maiden" or "water maiden". Appropriate - as when the Canterbury branch of the RNZIH visited the Hinewai Reserve on the Banks Peninsula in September, clouds were rolling over the ridge-tops and precipitating sleet and snow-flakes on those who braved the day.

Met by Hugh Wilson, Canterbury botanist (author of the field guides for Mt Cook and Stewart Island, and currently working on a similar guide for the Banks Peninsula flora), we were told a brief history of the reserve. Hinewai is a 109 hectare block in the southeast corner of Banks Peninsula, bought by the Maurice White Conservation Trust in September 1987 and managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife.

Much of the original Banks Peninsula vegetation has been lost - where once there was red beech forest and giant totaras, with mixed hardwood forest, there is now farmland - the golden grassland cover stretching down to the beautiful blue sea that is so typical of the Banks Peninsula today. In Hinewai, a tiny but very important fragment of the original cover is lovingly protected by Hugh and his voluntary helpers. The emphasis is now to restore the former plant associations. Goats, the major destructive pest have been eradicated from the reserve; thousands of native seedlings are being planted on Hinewai - grown



Regeneration of native species is very evident when the gorse is in bloom at Hinewai.

from genetic sources within the Otanerito valley in which Hinewai is situated. However, Hugh marvels at the speed of nature in the regeneration process, given favourable conditions. He is often finding new species reappearing in the reserve, from seeds dropped by birds or blown on the wind. He nurtures these seedlings, protecting them from visitors feet or straying animals by fences, or clearing the gorse away to give them a chance.

Gorse covers much of the reserve, but rather than being an enemy, it is extremely effective in the revegetation process. Gorse grows vigorously for seven or eight years, and then it opens out and the native seedlings welcome the protection it gives. With the gorse flowers swathing much of the valley in yellow at this time of the year, one is able to clearly see the revegetation patterns in various parts of the reserve. Kanuka grows vigorously with gorse, and overtops it in five years. Shade-tolerant plants such as mahoe and native fuchsia take longer, perhaps 15 to 20 years to suppress the gorse. The major threat posed by the gorse is that of fire - a runaway burnoff from a neighbouring farm. This could put the restoration programme back by years. Altogether 186 species of native plants have been recorded within the reserve boundaries.

Many native birds can be heard and seen by the observant visitor - bellbirds, woodpigeons, brown creeper, fantail, greywarbler and many more, whilst many introduced species are also common. Beautiful green geckos live in the kanuka, and eels share the streams with tiny native fish. The reserve is in a valley head, on the eroded outer flank of the extinct Akaroa Volcano, which ceased erupting basaltic lava some 8 million years ago. The land falls steeply from over 600 metres to 200 metres, giving a range of vegetation zones within the reserve. Sweeping vistas across the Pacific Ocean make the reserve, 91km from Christchurch, a rewarding day trip. I'm sure helping hands will be appreciated at any time.

Hugh Wilson's wealth of knowledge in botany and ecology are put to great use in this effective conservation project which is an inspiration to all, and a tribute to the great efforts of a lot of dedicated people.

Jean Grierson

OBITUARIES

It is with real sadness that we note the recent deaths of two distinguished Associates of Honour:

Dr J.D. Atkinson OBE, M.Agr.Sc, D.Sc, FRSNZ, FNZIAS

Dr Atkinson, or Torchy as he was known to his many friends and colleagues, played a major role in the development of horticultural research in New Zealand. His first personal contribution was in discovering the importance of boron for the health and productivity of apple trees in the Nelson district. His recommendation that boron be specifically applied is thought to be the first ever use of an individual micronutrient, a practice that is now common in agriculture. Shortly after he completed that work, war broke out and Torchy enlisted. After serving overseas in the Army, he returned to New Zealand to become director of the newly formed Fruit Research Division of DSIR and subsequently became director also of Plant Diseases Division. He was a research manager who deserved and earned the respect of his staff; he was a man of great integrity and mana who trusted his staff and did much to help and support them. Many scientists now suffering under current fashions of research "management" remember nostalgically Torchy's belief that if you wanted a job done you "got a food man and left him to get on with it". One of Torchy's most lasting achievements was the symbiosis he fostered between research scientists and the fruitgrowing industries. This ensured that research was relevant and that research findings were quickly applied by growers. The result was increased production of high quality fruit. For example, during the period that he was director, apple production per unit area of orchard increased three-fold.

Dr Atkinson served for many years on the Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum. He also served a term as President of the RNZIH. His contributions to agricultural science were recognised by his being awarded a D.Sc. and being elected Fellow, Royal Society of New Zealand. He was also appointed OBE. A detailed obituary will appear in *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand*.

Mr H.B. Redgrove QSM

Although we were all shocked by the sudden death of Mr Hugh Redgrove, it is some consolation that only a few weeks previous he had joined us for the Annual Dinner and had showed his usual, critical interest in the plantings at the Botanic Gardens.

For many years Hugh had made Winstones in Shore Road a mecca for plantsmen because of its wide range of plants, including many that were rare or unusual. He arrived in New Zealand in 1952 and was manager at Winstones for the next 25 years, retiring as a deceptively sprightly 75-year-old. During his time there he introduced many new plants, mainly from the United Kingdom, and he built up a clientele for rare and unusual bulbs. He had an unrivalled knowledge of perennials, probably his greatest love, and recently completed his revision of R.E. Harrison's *Bulbs and Perennials*. He wrote widely - probably every horticultural magazine in New Zealand has published articles by him, and he also wrote in overseas journals such as *The Garden*. His articles were unflinchingly clear and straightforward and they always communicated his own love and enthusiasm for plants. He was also a great gardener and many of us have been impressed by the plantings at Stansted, his home at Oratia. I remember in particular his bog garden with its primula, hostas and irises.

Hugh was an active member of the Institute and he also supported keenly the Nurserymen's Association and the work of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. His many contributions to horticulture were recognised by his QSM and his election as Associate of Honour. These awards undoubtedly brought him much satisfaction - but his genuine love of plants was evidenced at a meeting of the Institute last year by the pleasure with which he described a particularly good, vivid red *Vireya* that had been named "Hugh Redgrove" in his honour.

Commercial Horticulture of October 1988 contains a lengthy interview with Hugh and an account of his early life in England.

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